ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Header information capture section extracts information such as the numbers of dots in horizontal and vertical directions, respectively, of the picture, a frame rate and so on from a sequence header included in an MPEG video stream. Total processing amount estimation/reproduction scheme determination section receives a channel priority determined for each display mode and an output of header information capture section to estimate a total processing amount and determine a reproduction scheme for each channel. MPEG decoder receives code inputs of channels 1 to 4 in a time-dividing manner through header information capture section to perform decoding of picture codes of each channel according to a determination signal outputted from total processing amount estimation/reproduction scheme determination section. With such a configuration, there is provided an moving picture decoding apparatus capable of performing high quality picture display in plural channels while suppressing increase in circuit scale of a decoder and in use amount of a memory.

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